

### INFANTRY QUIET BUT ARTILLERY IS STILL ACTIVE

Unfavorable Weather Is Hindering Infantry Operations In Vicinity of Verdun Though Has Been Heavy Work by Artillery

### RUSSIANS HOLD GERMANS IN CHECK

Germans In Lake Narocz and Ikskul Bridgehead Positions Fail to Make Any Advances Against the Russians

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

Before Verdun the infantry has remained inactive, and only in the sectors to the northwest, capturing Hill 294 and the front from Le Mort Homme to Cumieres, has there been heavy work by the artillery. Berlin reports that unfavorable weather is hindering infantry operations.

The Germans in the Lake Narocz and Ikskul bridgehead positions on the Russian front have made attempts to advance against the Russians, after preparatory bombardments. In each instance, according to Petrograd, they were repulsed. Near Baranovichi the Russian infantry essayed an attack on the Germans, but was driven back.

On the Austro-Italian line the usual bombardments and infantry attacks at various points continue. In Asiatic Turkey the Turks have delivered powerful counter attacks in the Caucasus region against important positions recently captured from them by the Russians. Their attempts failed, according to Petrograd.

Five additional vessels have met with disaster, as a result of mines or submarines. The British steamers Robert Adamson and Angus and the British bark Inverlyon have been sunk by submarines, while a Danish vessel named Dorothea has been sunk by a mine and the Dutch steamer Colombia damaged by a mine.

A semi-official dispatch from Berlin calculates the French losses up to the present in the fighting around Verdun at 150,000 officers and men. The British losses in the fighting with the Turks at Sannajiat, April 9, are declared officially to have been much below 2000—the figure given in the Turkish statement announcing the defeat of the British column.

### Lull in Verdun Battle

PARIS, April 13.—Another lull has fallen on the Verdun battlefield, as the Germans have been obliged to pause in order to fill up the gaps in their ranks, to replace damaged guns and to bring up munitions preparatory to further onslaughts. It is believed that the French command is not likely to modify its methods. General Petain is said to be quite satisfied as long as the Germans go on losing three times as many men as the French for unimportant results, as he knows that he has ample reserves to press a counter attack on a large scale when the opportune time arrives, and stocks of ammunition which are practically inexhaustible.

### Steamship Colombia Damaged

LONDON, April 13.—The Dutch steamship Colombia, from Baltimore, March 23, for Amsterdam, put in at Gravesend today, having been damaged by striking a mine in the English channel yesterday.

### Picks Up Crew

BARCELONA (Via Paris), April 12.—The steamer Mallorca has arrived here from Majorca. On the voyage she picked up the crew of the British steamer Orford Head which had been torpedoed.

### RAILS AT \$33 TON

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] NEW YORK, April 13.—The United States Steel Corporation announced today that after May 1 contracts placed for Bessemer and open-hearth steel rails for delivery after May 1, 1917, will be at the rate of \$33 a ton. The present price of \$28 a ton has prevailed for thirteen years.

## Throwing Blame For Bank Troubles On Banker's Son

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

DENVER, April 13.—A jury was secured late today and opening statements of the defense and prosecution completed in federal district court, where W. B. Slaughter of Dallas, Tex., former president of the closed Mercantile National bank of Pueblo, Colo., is being tried on charges in connection with the financial difficulties of the institution. The case was brought to Judge R. E. Lewis' division of the federal court here upon motion of former United States Senator Joseph W. Bailey of Texas, who, as chief counsel for Slaughter, argued that the defendant had received threatening letters prior to the closing of the case in Pueblo on April 5, and that a fair trial had not been had.

In his opening statement, Mr. Bailey asserted the defense would not controvert any evidence that the forgeries

## PRACTICALLY CERTAIN GERMAN SUBMARINE ATTACKED SUSSEX

SENATORS TO SUPPORT ROADS AID BILL

Special to The Republican

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13.—Senator Bankhead gave notice in the senate today that he would move the consideration of the federal aid bill bearing his name to aid the states in the construction and maintenance of post roads or roads that may be used as post roads, immediately after the vote on the army bill which is fixed for April 18. Senators Smith and Ashurst are giving the bill their earnest attention as under it the state of Arizona would receive as much as \$25,000,000 for road construction and maintenance.

### WILSON PRAYS NOT BE DRAWN INTO QUARREL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 13.—President Wilson, speaking at a Jefferson day banquet of democrats from all parts of the country here tonight prayed that the United States would not be drawn into a quarrel not of its own choosing, but asked if the people were ready to go in where the interests of America were coincident with the interests of humanity and have the courage to withdraw when the interests of humanity had been conserved.

He was interrupted by cheers and shouts of "yes." During his address the president had mentioned the European war and the Mexican question, without intimating what were his plans in either of the problems confronting the United States. He declared that in the present situation the responsibility was with the democratic party because that party controls the government and that "it is for us" to hold the balance even and not to allow some malign interference to depress one side or the other.

Most of the speech was devoted to reviewing the achievements of the democratic party during the last three years and to a criticism of the republicans as the party with "a provincial spirit." The president asserted that the nation was better prepared than ever before to show how America can lead the way along the path of light.

The president declared that he was not interested in personal ambition, nor even over party success, but he was interested in seeing the long depressing humanity lifted. He mentioned some of the republican leaders by name, but when he spoke of ambitious men there were shouts of "T. R."

"What the nation demands now," the president said, "is service and essentially non-partisan, not only in connection of foreign affairs, but in domestic affairs as well."

Referring incidentally to Mexico he told of how a man had urged that

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## MAKES PLEA FOR NAVY BIG ENOUGH TO DEFEND RIGHTS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 13.—Agitation for a greater navy at the expense of army increases marked the last day of general debate in the senate today on the army re-organization bill. Senator Stone, chairman of the foreign relations committee made a plea for a navy big enough to fight offensively on the high seas to defend American rights anywhere in the world, and Senator Borah, on the republican side, urged that the federal volunteer and national guard provisions of the Chamberlain bill both be sacrificed in order to add to the

extension of the country's naval forces.

In the course of his speeches, Senator Stone criticized both Great Britain and Germany. He declared they were equally guilty of offenses against the peace and well being of mankind, the former because of its policy of "navalism" and the latter because of its "militarism" while he deplored any program that could be construed as either navalism or militarism in the United States, the Missouri senator said he was for adequate defense in regard to the conduct of the submarine warfare since the Lusitania went down. A statement of facts, it was said, probably will be ready to be brought to the attention of the German government within the next few days.

Much of the evidence in the possession of the state department regarding

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### Evidence In Hands of State Department and Admissions In German Note Make Situation Delicate Step May Follow

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, April 13.—The United States is disposed to consider that Germany, in the latest submarine note practically admitted one of her submarine commanders is guilty of torpedoing the Channel steamer Sussex. President Wilson and Secretary Lansing today examined the official text of the communication from Berlin and are known to have reached this conclusion although no announcement was made.

Unless Germany admits unequivocally the attacking of the Sussex which had aboard more than a score of American citizens and inflicts adequate punishment upon the commander of the submarine and in other ways show evidence of good faith, action of a drastic nature undoubtedly will follow. Details of the policy to be pursued are expected to be formulated at the meeting of the cabinet tomorrow.

The assumption of Germany's admission of guilt is founded upon the marked similarity of the circumstances surrounding the explosion which damaged the Sussex and the attack upon a steamer in the channel described in the German note. The date, time, and locations are practically the same. The damage done by the torpedo fired by the submarine and the explosion which wrecked the Sussex are identical. The course being followed by the Sussex and the vessel mentioned in the note are similar.

The only difference in the two versions, that of Germany based upon the report of a submarine commander, and that of the United States, founded upon reports of the British and French governments, affidavits of survivors, and investigations by American naval, diplomatic and consular officials, is found in the description of the Sussex and in the description of the vessel attacked by the submarine, based upon a sketch made by the submarine commander while peering through his periscope. It is considered that the slight variations in the two sides of the case very well can be reconciled.

Following the receipt recently of press dispatches announcing that the German government flatly denied responsibility for the explosion which destroyed the Sussex, it is believed the case United States was preparing against Germany warfare would have to be based upon the accumulation of illegal attacks rather than largely upon the disaster to the channel steamer. It is now being revealed upon just what contentions and arguments Germany bases her denial or responsibility, the administration considers that the case of the Sussex is stronger than ever.

Secretary Lansing today had nearly completed the collection of evidence in regard to the conduct of the submarine warfare since the Lusitania went down. A statement of facts, it was said, probably will be ready to be brought to the attention of the German government within the next few days.

Much of the evidence in the possession of the state department regarding

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## CARRANZA WANTS AMERICAN TROOPS WITHDRAWN AND SAYS WILL PURSUE VILLA HIMSELF

### AGOSTA SAYS WILL NO LONGER FIGHT YANKEES

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

PESHING CAMP AT FRONT, April 7. (By aeroplane and motorcycle couriers to Columbus, N. M., April 13).—A report reaching here from Mexican sources last night was that Julio Agosta, a Villa leader near Guerrero had declared he would no longer fight against Americans. Agosta has been considered one of Villa's most steadfast men. His announcement, if true, is taken as strengthening the reports that Villa has met serious defection among his own people.

A conference of considerable significance, and of unusual picturesque interest took place here today when General Luis Herrera, commander of the Carranza army, called upon General Pershing.

The meeting took place in the middle of a yellow grass dried mesa, five miles broad and twenty miles long, with mountains walling all sides, and a grass fire ranging up the sides of a nearby mountain containing the eastern sky with smoke. The two staffs set in the open, in a circle on cracker boxes and hazon tins. The only available chairs in the American headquarters camp. A hot sun blazed on the tins and flashed from the silver buckles on the leather chaps of the Mexican officers. The Americans wore the regulation olive drab. A hedge of dried yellow daisies, General Pershing's wind break, and a rectangle of cottonwood boughs laid on the ground marked the outline of General Pershing's quarters where the conferees sat. A boy could have stepped over the boughs. Part of General Herrera's personal body guard stood with their horses outside the boughs. American troopers held the horses of the Mexican staff. It was the first meeting by General Pershing, since he crossed the border, with a general of the Mexican staff. Herrera had arrived with twenty-five men, several hours earlier at the ranch houses about a mile from the American camp. His first greeting there was from an American private, a cowboyman, who was at the ranch trying to buy food. This private walked up to the Mexican, whose coming into this region was unannounced and held out his hand in greeting to the general, of whose rank he was ignorant. General Herrera shook hands.

Herrera then sent word by his staff to General Pershing that he had arrived on his way with a personal body guard from Chihuahua to Santa Rosalia to the south of here to assist in the hunt for Villa. The conference, General Pershing said this afternoon, was very pleasant. General Herrera, he said, told him about the disposition of Mexican troops and inquired about the positions of some of the American columns. Shortly before sunset, Herrera and his escort rode out of camp to rejoin his troops who he said were already on the way to Santa Rosalia. He said he had several hundred men.

The American scouts in camp watched General Herrera with much interest. They said they had been reliably informed about two weeks ago that he was coming to the border.

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### Funston Says Fall Did Injustice In The Thirteenth

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 13.—"A great injustice to the officers and men of the Thirteenth cavalry" was the way General Funston characterized the recent declaration of Senator Fall in report he sent today to the adjutant general at Washington, General Funston's report to the adjutant general was in effect a reply to the criticism that Senator Fall made of the conduct of the troops at Columbus, when that town was raided a month ago by Villa.

General Funston explained his rejoinder by saying that Colonel Stocum now was far in the interior of Mexico and unable to reply for himself. He declared that almost every statement in Senator Fall's declaration was false. He declared that after the first shot of the sentry the remainder of the garrison was in action in about five minutes. He denied that the residents of Columbus had aided materially in the defense of the town. He said that Senator Fall's assertion that they had done so was "rubbish." Instead of losing 100 horses he said the actual number was 45, a large part of which has been recovered.

## DENIES PERMISSION EVER GIVEN FOR AMERICAN FORCES TO CROSS BORDER TO AVENGE VILLA RAID ON COLUMBUS

While Carranza Is Urging Recall of Expeditionary Force, the American Troops In Mexico Have Their First Battle With Natives—News of Clash at Parral Reaches Washington Too Late for Senate or House to Hear About It Before Adjournment—Subject of Withdrawal Will Be Considered By Cabinet Today and Congress, While Discussing It, Is Expected to Leave Administration Free to Handle Situation for the Present

(Republican A. P. Leased Wire)

MEXICO CITY, April 13.—The Mexican government today sent to its ambassador in Washington a note for delivery by him to Secretary Lansing asking American troops to withdraw from Mexican territory, and that the pursuit of Francisco Villa be left to the Mexican constitutionalist army.

The note contains about five thousand words. It insists that because the American troops crossed without permission, they should withdraw until a formal compact can be entered into between the two governments. It insistently affirmed that previous notes of the Mexican government emphasized the fact that permission for reciprocal crossing was granted only in the event of a repetition of the raid similar to that of Columbus, N. M.

American troops in Mexico have had their first battle with the natives at the moment General Carranza is urging their withdrawal.

On Wednesday night while General Carranza's note was on its way to Washington, troopers of the Seventh cavalry, under Major Tompkins, were fired upon in Parral, a Villa stronghold, in western Chihuahua, pursued to the suburbs while the Carranza garrison took a doubtful part in the affray, and were attacked again during the night.

Complete information regarding the losses to the American troops or to the Mexicans at Parral had not reached Washington tonight. Secretary Baker informed President Wilson that a brief dispatch to the war department said that according to unofficial reports one American cavalryman was killed and that five troops had used machine guns against the Mexicans.

Mr. Baker announced later, that he had ordered General Funston to take any steps that might be necessary to prevent further trouble. When asked whether this might mean the enforced use of Mexican railroads for the movement of soldiers and supplies, he said General Funston was on the ground and would act in any emergency. The secretary expressed the hope, however, that the trouble at Parral was purely local and did not presage further difficulties.

General Carranza, directing his embassy here to point out that the clash proved his contention that the presence of American troops in Mexico is leading to a situation which threatens to go beyond his control, telegraphed that many deaths had occurred on both sides.

Foreign Minister Aguilar, in a dispatch sent before that from General Carranza, said one American trooper was killed and several citizens were wounded.

Consul Garcia, the Carranza agent at El Paso, wired the embassy that (Continued on Page Two)

### VIGILANCE AGAINST ATTACKS ON U. S. LINE OF COMMUNICATION

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN ANTONIO, April 13.—From Columbus, N. M., to points near the Chihuahua-Durango state line great vigilance was maintained for fear of attacks, since Carranza had requested the American troops withdraw which went up and down the line of communications to the camps of the detached cavalry columns that have penetrated the hills and mountains beyond Parral in their search for Villa.

No official communication went to them and will not until the war department has communicated the news and its wishes to General Funston, but orders have been sent from here to take all precautions against attacks.

General Funston received no report from General Pershing regarding the reported Parral incident and late today he knew no more of that development than was contained in the report sent forward by Consul Letcher from Chihuahua and that given in press dispatches from Washington. His information from Consul Letcher indicated that both garrison and populace had fired upon the detachment of 140 American troops when they entered Parral and that the fire had been returned.

It was assumed that the commanding officer of the American detachment was Major Tompkins, who, it was believed might be having difficulties in getting his reports of the incident back to General Pershing. Major Tompkins had with him no field wireless and a courier would have been necessary for the transmission of his report.

That a conflict between American troops and Mexicans other than those of Villa's organization had occurred, was regretted at headquarters, but confidence was expressed of the ability of the commander of the detachment that entered Parral to explain the incident satisfactorily. All officers in the expeditionary columns have been cautioned not to provoke conflict with peaceful residents of Mexico or with troops of the de facto government and officers at headquarters do not believe that the incident at Parral will alter the attitude of the men in the field. Officers here are confident that any conflict that might come will be the

## What Will Washington Do? Question Asked In El Paso

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

EL PASO, Tex., April 13.—El Paso was in a state of tense anticipation tonight. "What will Washington do?" was the question on every lip, and was so absorbing a subject of speculation that everything else faded into insignificance.

The news of the clash at Parral between American soldiers and Mexicans was followed by reports of serious rioting at other points in Chihuahua, but in none of these other incidents were American soldiers said to be involved. The riots were said to be due principally to economic conditions and not primarily political. The scarcity of food in the cities of northern Mexico has been growing steadily greater and in many places the masses of the people are said to be practically on the brink of starvation.

The worst rioting was reported far to the south, in Aguas Calientes, capital of the state of that name. Food riots, in which big mobs took part and which have been going on spasmodically for the last two days, were described in a message received here by an American mining concern with large interests in Aguas Calientes. The message said looting had been carried on extensively and much property had been destroyed.

As far as this section of the border is concerned, the news of Carranza's request for the withdrawal of the troops has not caused any open disturbance. Juarez maintained its customary placid attitude, and the Mexicans on both sides of the river seemed far less excited than the Americans. Undisturbed by the day's developments, El Paso business concerns sent another trainload of supplies to Casas Grandes over the Mexican Northwestern railroad. The supplies, which will find their way into the hands of the field base quartermaster, included three cars of oats, four cars of gasoline and two of commissary goods.